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## NAVAL NURSING SERVICE

BY MARY G. WOOD, R.N.

*Member of the U. S. Naval Reserve Force*

The day we received orders to report for duty in the Navy was an eventful one in our lives. For several months we had waited for the call, and the realization that we were, at last, active members of Uncle Sam's Naval force filled our hearts with joy that was not dimmed even by the parting with home folks.

Having arrived at the destination named in our transportation orders, we learned, through inquiries, that the Naval Hospital was nine miles from town; as there was uncertainty as to car schedule, and as night was at hand, we decided to make the final lap of our journey in a Ford. We were having a jolly ride, five of us and our hand-bags in one car, when we suddenly found ourselves up against a brick wall, literally, but the large gate opened quickly when the sentry was informed that we were nurses for the hospital. A cordial greeting from the Chief Nurse, and the remark that she had been expecting us for a week, made us feel that we were indeed welcome.

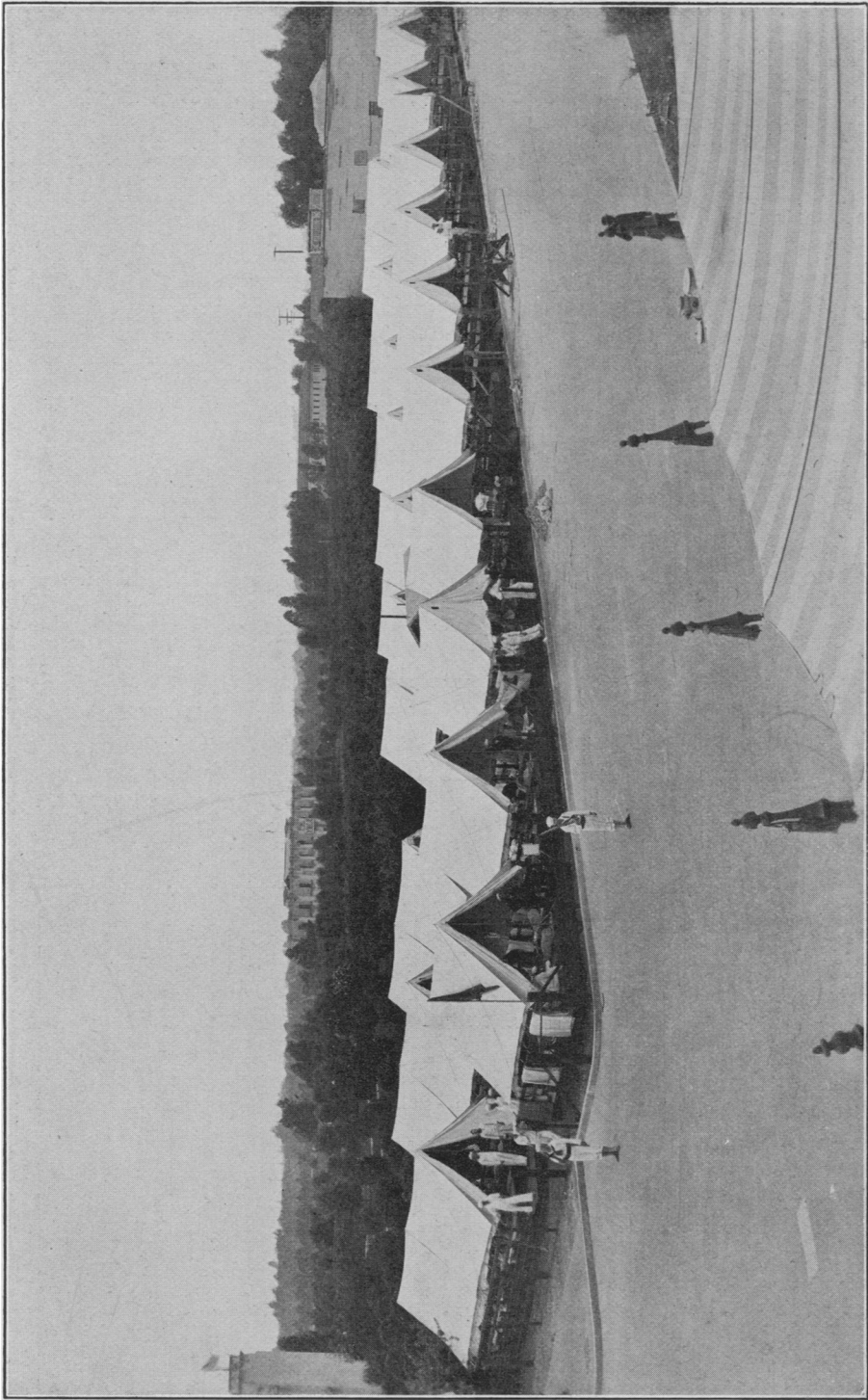
The next morning, after an instructive talk from the Chief Nurse, we were assigned to duty and our work had begun in reality.

To nurses who have been out of school for several years, the long wards and rows of beds bring visions of training-school days, and it does not all end in mental pictures for there are methods and regulations to be learned that we did not get in civil hospitals.

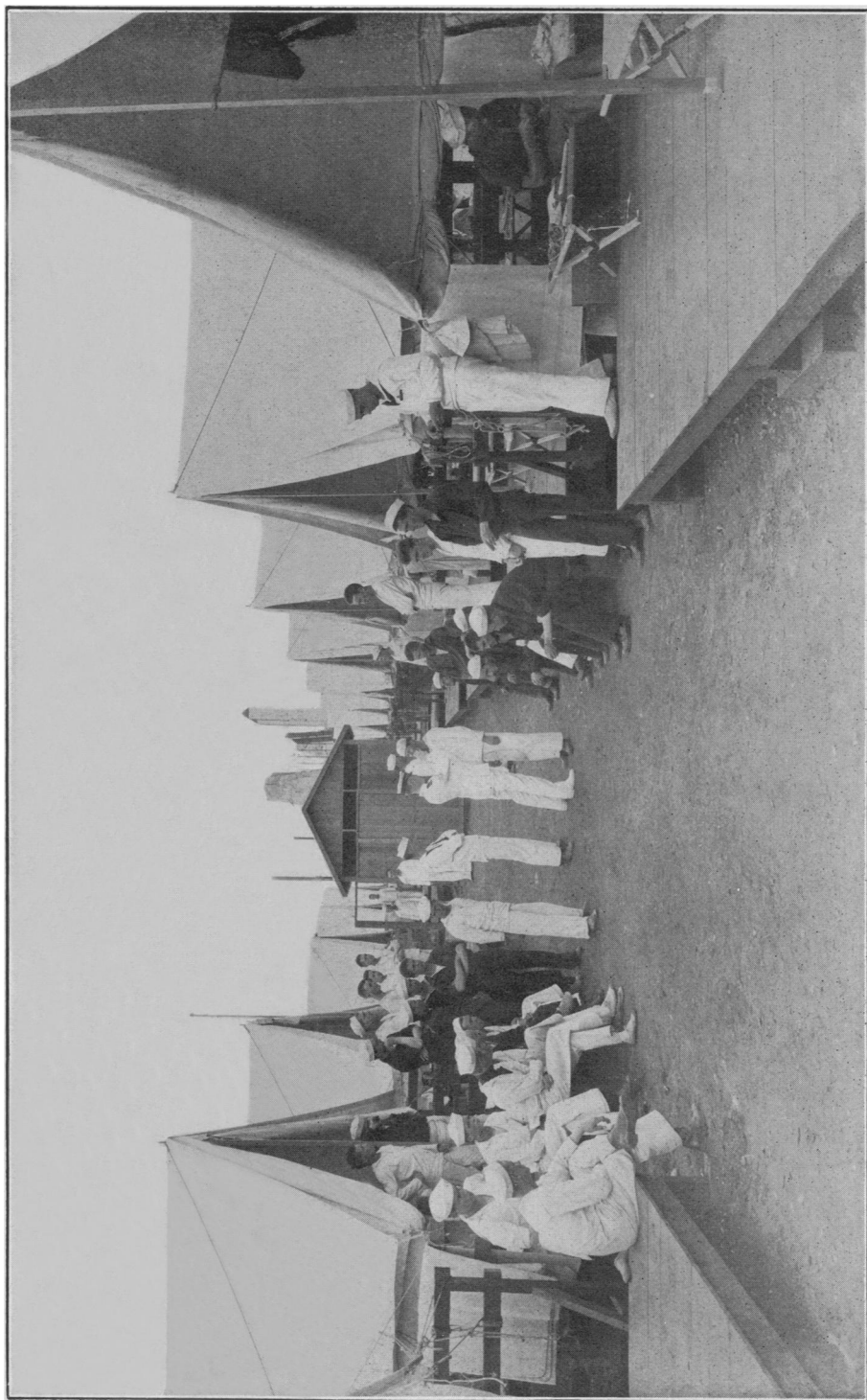
The duties of the nurse are mainly those of supervision and responsibility for the work of the hospital corps men in her ward. The first days were devoted principally to learning the routine paper work and daily detail of cleaning (each day having a special detail in addition to the usual ward work), and "Sufficient unto the day," etc., if these details are not carried out, for the reckoning comes with Saturday inspection.

One of the "duties" (not listed) is to master the sailor's phraseology. "Swab the deck," "Close the hatches," "Rush the chow," etc., were puzzling, but it was not long before we were using the terms with quite a "sea-going" accent.

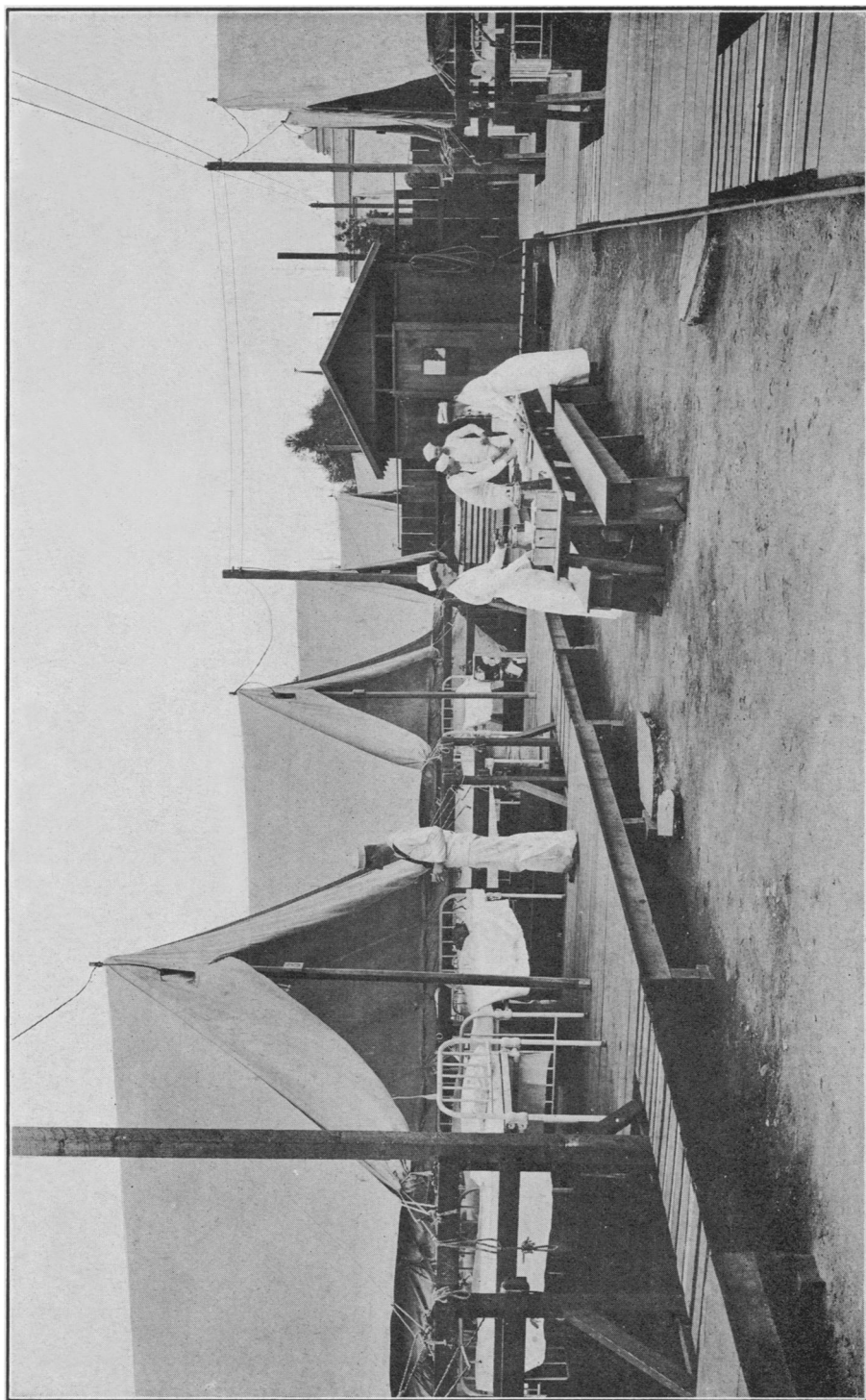
The nurses' quarters is a long, airy building in the front of the hospital grounds where we have a fine view of the beach and get the sea breezes from the south. All conveniences and accessories of an up-to-date home, including telephone service and a Victrola, make the quarters very cozy and comfortable. A large screened porch, generously supplied with chairs and a swing, is a luxury that we appreciated more as the summer days approached. But the comfortable furnishings of the home are second in importance to the genial com-



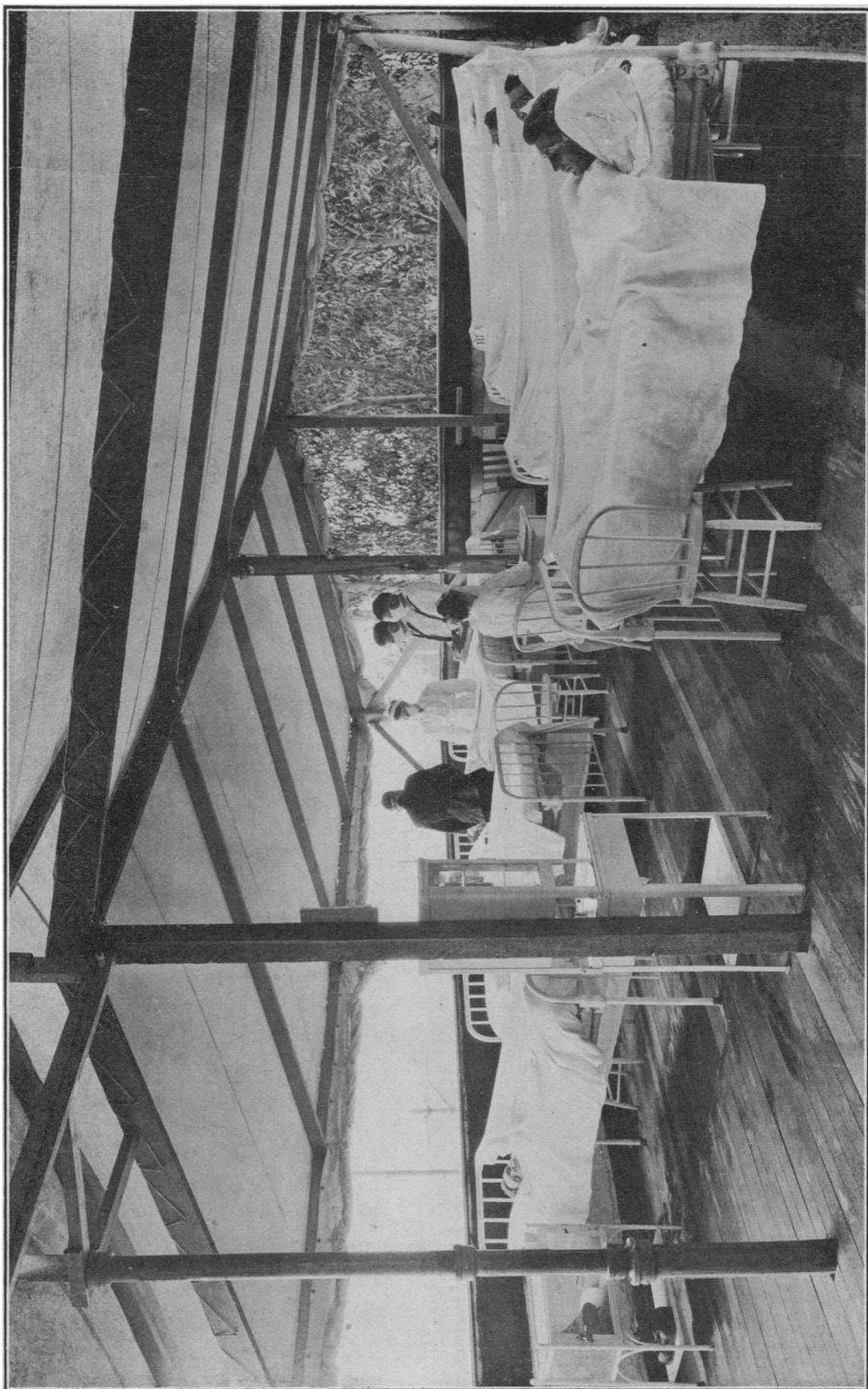
Isolation Camp, San Diego, California



Interior of Isolation Camp



Isolation Camp—Setting up Mess Gear



Pneumonia Ward

panionship which we enjoy with the Chief Nurse and the other regular nurses.

With only eight-hour duty, we have time for walks in the woods which are back of the hospital grounds, or along the beach where we may watch the aviators and sea-gulls vie with each other in aerial stunts; and for other recreations. On Thursday afternoons there is a concert by the band from the Air Station; this is primarily for the patients, but we enjoy it too. There is also the weekly picture show which is the occasion for a large gathering of convalescing patients, doctors, nurses and corpsmen in the mess hall where the machine is installed. The films are good and admission is free.

A tennis court is being prepared for us, and later on we are to have a bathing pier for our exclusive use. The beach at this point is one of the best on the southern coast.

The nearest city is only thirty minutes' ride distant by trolley, but we do not go often, as there are quite enough places of interest in our immediate vicinity to occupy our leisure hours.

I wish it were possible to convey our viewpoint to the many nurses who are hesitating about entering the service. If they might stand at attention with us just once, as our beloved flag is being hoisted to the breeze—the flag that typifies the freedom of the world—I believe their indecision would vanish at that moment.

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## NURSING CARE OF ALCOHOLIC AND DRUG ADDICTIONS

BY CARL SCHEFFEL, PH.B., M.D.

*Boston, Mass.*

In the entire field of nursing there are, in some respects, no more difficult patients to care for than those unfortunates addicted to the intemperate use of alcohol or drugs. The role the nurse must play in the handling of these patients depends somewhat upon the method of treatment adopted and whether it is to be carried out in an institution or attempted in the home of the patient.

Regardless, however, of how or where treatment is undertaken, many problems in common present themselves for solution in all of these cases. First of all, it is of the utmost importance that the nurse should understand and appreciate that these patients are suffering from a chronic disease affecting both mind and body. They are to be treated as sick patients and not as social outcasts or criminals. In fact they are very apt to be super-sensitive concerning their addictions, and in their proper care a nurse's tact, patience, and judgment are often taxed to the utmost.